

# GHOST IN THE SHELL MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 2

ISSUE 11 OF 11

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MASAMUNE SHIROW

GHOST IN THE SHELL  
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 11 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY  
**MASAMUNE SHIROW**

TRANSLATION BY  
**FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH**

この物語に登場する  
様々な設定や解説や概  
念は全て妄想の産物で  
あり、現実とは無関係  
の娯楽物です。誤用を  
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂  
ければ幸いです。  
またデッチ上げやギミ  
ックの「誤用」による  
二次被害には当方責任  
を負いかねます点を御  
了承願います。

LETTERING BY  
**TOM ORZECOWSKI  
AND DAN JACKSON**

EDITOR  
**CHRIS WARNER**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
**TOREN SMITH FOR STUDIO PROTEUS**

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
**BATT DRYER**

PUBLICATION DESIGN  
**DAVID NESTELLE**

PUBLISHER  
**MIKE RICHARDSON**

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



## WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shiraw during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

### APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shiraw

Send comments to:

Interface  
10956 SE Main Street  
Milwaukie OR 97222 USA

interface@darkhorse.com



06 EPILOGUE  
2035.03.06.05:35AM







A GIRL  
HATCHED FROM A  
SHELL...



BORN IN THE FIRE  
OF SANSHUKU, OR  
SHEN, THE CHINESE  
EQUIVALENT OF  
ORION... HAS THE  
SWORD OF  
EXTINCTION IN  
PERSONALITY...



THOSE BORN UNDER  
THE SIGN OF SHEN HAVE  
SWORDS IN THEIR MINDS,  
POISON IN THEIR MOUTHS,  
ENJOY PANDEMONIUM  
AND CARNAGE, AND CAN  
BE CRAZED BODHISATTVAS  
OR BLOODTHIRSTY  
HELLHOUNDS...

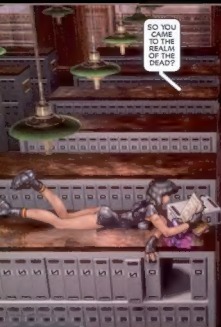
HMM... THERE'S  
ONE PERSON IN  
THE CHANNELING  
AGENCY TO WHOM THAT  
APPLIES...



...BUT HER  
REGISTERED  
NAME IS TANUKI  
TAMASUL.  
SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT  
OF FAT AND GOOFY  
JAPANESE RACCOON-DOG.

I WONDER  
IF IT'S AN  
ENTRY  
ERROR...OR  
SOME SORT  
OF CODE...

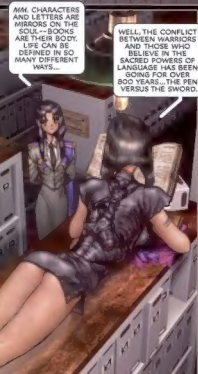
When a cyborg's entire body is a prosthesis, its exterior doesn't have to look the same age as that of the living brain portion inside. But there are sometimes problems when a child's brain is implanted in an adult prosthetic body, and these problems can affect personality development. As a result, most brains are given prosthetic bodies that match them well. In this story, we are assuming people either want prosthetic bodies that look the way they did when they were younger, or that they want natural-looking bodies appropriate to their true age...



SO YOU  
CAME TO  
THE  
REALM  
OF THE  
DEAD?



HERE THE  
DEAD ARE  
STILL  
LIVING...  
EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY  
DON'T  
HAVE  
MINDS  
OR  
BODIES.

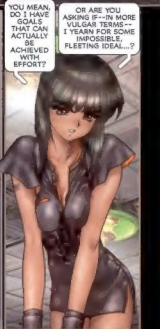


MM. CHARACTERS  
AND LETTERS  
ARE MIRRORS  
ON THE  
SOUL--BOOKS  
ARE THEIR  
BODY.  
LIFE CAN BE  
DEFINED IN SO  
MANY DIFFERENT  
WAYS...

WELL, THE CONFLICT  
BETWEEN WARRIORS  
AND THOSE WHO  
BELIEVE IN THE  
SACRED POWERS OF  
LANGUAGE HAS BEEN  
GOING FOR OVER  
800 YEARS...THE PEN  
VERSUS THE SWORD.



MOTOKO...  
DO YOU  
HAVE  
DREAMS?



YOU MEAN,  
DO I HAVE  
GOALS  
THAT CAN  
ACTUALLY  
BE  
ACHIEVED  
WITH  
EFFORT?

OR ARE YOU  
ASKING IF--IN MORE  
VULGAR TERMS--  
I YEARN FOR SOME  
IMPOSSIBLE,  
FLEETING IDEA...?





WHAT DO YOU  
USE FOR SELF-  
REALIZATION...?

RIGHT NOW,  
IF THIS VERY  
INSTANT  
PROVIDES THE  
BEST LONG  
AND SHORT-  
TERM CHOICES,  
THE BEST LIFE  
IS PROBABLY  
THE AGGREGATE  
OF ALL THOSE  
CHOICES, YES?



AND IS  
THAT WHY  
DEATH IS  
ACCEPTABLE?

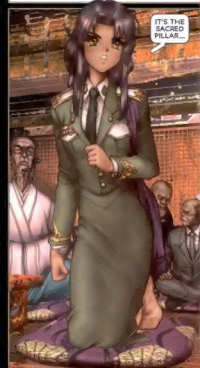
WHAT REAL  
ADVANTAGES  
HAS A HIGHLY  
SOPHISTICATED  
PROSTHETIC  
BODY--FAR MORE  
ADVANCED THAN  
A HUMAN BODY--  
GIVEN YOU?

I SUPPOSE A  
PSYCHOLOGIST  
MIGHT SAY  
THIS IS THE  
REVENGE OF  
THE "REAL"  
BODY I LOST  
AS A GIRL.

SO WHY  
FUSE WITH  
AN  
INFORMATION  
DEITY WHO  
SEEKS LIFE,  
OLD AGE,  
AND  
DEATH...?

NO  
COMMENT.







BOTH SHE AND ONE OTHER—AN ASYMMETRICAL SHADOW OF HERSELF—HAVE GONE BACK UP THE SACRED COLUMN.

THE BRANCHES ARE SWAYING, AND THE TREE ITSELF APPEARS TO BE RESPONDING TO SOMETHING.



THE SHADOW IS PROBABLY THE PHENOMENON WE CALL THE ANANDAKARU OR "CONTRABAND DESIGN." IT'S AN INTERNAL REFLECTION OR "SHADOW OF SELF" THAT COEXISTS IN EVERYONE WITH THEIR REAL SELF.

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THIS WITH EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION. IT'S USUALLY ONLY APPARENT WHEN A PERSON'S PERSONALITY CHANGES SUDDENLY AND DRAMATICALLY IN THEIR DAILY LIFE.

HMM... REALLY?



THE ROOTS OF THE TREE ARE ERUPTING FROM ONE POINT AND REVOLVING.



THERE IS A SIMILAR TREE ERUPTING ON THE OTHER SIDE AND REVOLVING... SHE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE TWO TREES.

IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM SOMETHING HUGE WILL EMERGE.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS SPECIFICALLY, BUT IT IS OUR JOB TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE.



THAT'S TOO ABSTRACT FOR ME.

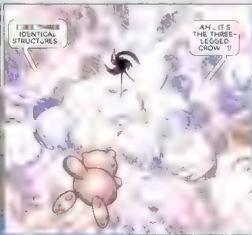
JUST REMEMBER IT: ONE DAY THIS INFORMATION WILL PROVE USEFUL TO YOU.





NO, WAIT. THE ROOTS ARE NOT CONTACTING EACH OTHER. THEY ARE SPRINGING FROM TWO POINTS.

AIDWAY BETWEEN THE TWO POINTS SOMETHING'S BEING SUCKED INWARD WITH AN ASTOUNDING FORCE.



I SEE THREE IDENTICAL STRUCTURES.

AH... IT'S THE THREE-LEGGED CROW 'Y'.



THERE'S A CONNECTION HERE. IT MAY BE A YATAGARASU, THE SACRED CROW THAT SERVES AS A GUIDE IN JAPAN'S CREATION MYTHS.

APPROACH TOO CLOSE AND IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE SUCKED IN.

ACTIVITY HAS REACHED A DANGEROUS THRESHOLD SIR.

ACTIVATE SUPPRESSION IMPLANT.



ASCENDING A TREE WITH AN AMANJAKU DEMON - A CROW IN THE BRANCHES.

HEY I'VE HEARD OF THIS IN AN OLD FAIRY TALE SOMEWHERE.

YES IN STRUCTURE IT RESEMBLES THE JAPANESE CREATION MYTHS.







SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE  
SOMETHING FRUITFUL HAS  
BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN HER  
AND THE AMANOUJAKU

MAYBE A  
PERSON

"IF YOU CAN"  
BE SERIOUS,  
YOU CAN  
LEAVE THE  
ROOM



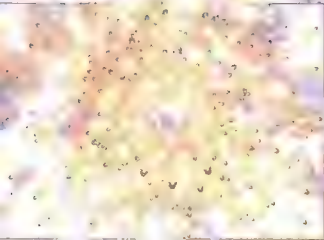
SHE'S  
FLOWERS  
OF LIGHT  
ON THE TREE  
BRANCHES  
ARE  
BLOOMING  
IN HUGE  
NUMBERS

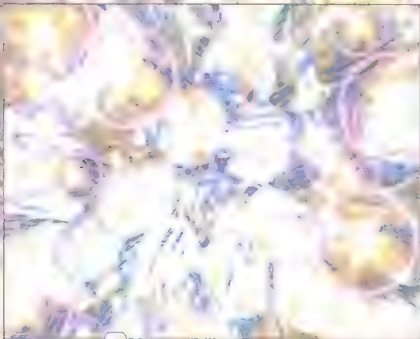
THERE  
ARE FIVE  
COLORS



ADOPTEE  
LEADS THEM  
TO SCENES  
FLOWERS OR  
MAYBE THEY  
WILL GET  
ATTACHED  
TO A TREE  
TRUNK?







I'M SEEING  
THE TREL'N  
OCCURE



NO WAIT  
PERHAPS  
THERE'S  
TWO OF  
ME?



EVERYTHING  
LOOKS LIKE  
A DOUBLE  
IMAGE,  
BUT IT'S  
STABILIZED

IT'S LIKE A  
REVOLVING  
MIRROR

IN TERMS  
OF SCALE  
IT'S THE  
MAXIMUM  
POSSIBLE  
IN VISIBLE  
SPACE



SURE THERE  
ARE ONLY THREE  
SUPPRESS ON  
IMPLANTS LEFT  
AND I'M GETTING  
WARNING SIGNALS  
FROM HER LING  
MUSCLES AND  
MOUTHPIECE

ALL RIGHT  
CANCEL THE  
RITUAL FORMULA  
AND INITIATE  
RETRIVAL  
PROCEDURES



WHAT'S LEFT  
IS TO TAKE A  
LOOK AT THE  
INFORMATION  
YOU HAVE  
AND MAKE  
SOME SORT  
OF  
INFERENCE  
FROM IT

THEN  
WHAT?

WE'LL REE  
-RETRIVAL  
AND WHERE



OUR BASIC  
INVESTIGATIONS  
SHOW THAT  
PROFESSOR  
RAHAMPOOL HAD A  
STRONG INTEREST  
IN THE POTENTIAL OF  
SELF-CONSTRUCTING  
NEURAL ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE

ON THE OTHER HAND  
MOTOKO ARAMAK  
OFFERED HER  
HARDWARE TO A SELF-  
PROFESSED ARTIFICIAL  
LIFE FORM AND SHE'S  
BEEN EXPANDING  
HER INFLUENCE

THE  
COMMONALITY  
BETWEEN  
THESE TWO  
THINGS IS A  
NEW TYPE OF  
INTELLIGENT  
LIFE

THREE THOUSAND  
YEARS AGO THERE  
WAS ANOTHER  
MILLENNIUM.  
BUT TOO FEW  
RECORDS SURVIVE TO  
MAKE ANY ESTIMATES  
ABOUT THE EFFECT OF  
THE PHENOMENON.  
TWO THOUSAND  
YEARS AGO IT WAS  
THE JEWEL  
MILLENNIUM, DURING  
WHICH RELIGION  
WAS EXTREMELY  
POWERFUL

BUT WHEN  
THE SWORD  
MILLENNIUM  
BEGAN, IT WAS  
SYMBOLIZED BY  
POWERFUL  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
RELIGION  
UNTIL THEN, THE  
JEWEL -- BECAME  
A DOUBLE-EDGED  
SWORD

SO WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING IS THAT  
DESPITE THE  
FACT THAT  
SCIENCE AND  
RELIGION  
MIRROR EACH  
OTHER, WE DON'T  
REALLY KNOW  
WHAT THE  
PHENOMENON  
OF THE MIRROR  
IS RIGHT?

THE MIRROR  
REFLECTS THE  
THREE SOULS OF SELF. THE  
SHINING MIRROR

WAVE

The Three Souls...I'm not going to get into a discussion here of dualism or the "single spirit, four souls," etc., of the ancient Shinto religion. Although the story seems very "Shinto"-ish here, remember...it isn't Shinto.



IT SEEMS  
LIKE IN THE  
NEAR FUTURE  
WE HUMAN  
WILL HAVE TO  
CONFRONT THE  
PHENOMENON  
KNOWN AS  
INTELLIGENT  
ARTIFICIAL  
LIFE

BUT IT'LL BE  
A NIGHTMARE  
IT'LL BE  
LIKE SEEING  
WHAT  
HUMANS  
HAVE DONE  
YES?



YES AND IT COULD  
OCCUR AT A  
VARIETY OF LEVELS  
WITH IMPACTS  
THAT RANGE FROM  
LOW TO HIGH AND  
INCLUDE CULTURE  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
POLITICS SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND RELIGION

YOU  
WOULD BE  
CONFRONTING  
YOURSELF



WELL DON'T  
FORGET SHE SAID  
THE MIRROR  
SEEMS  
ASYMMETRICAL  
AND WARPED



WELL THE  
UNIVERSE  
ITSELF IS  
ASYMMETRICAL

THAT'S WHY  
IT EXISTS  
AND THAT'S  
WHY IT'S  
EVOLVING



BUT THERE'S  
ALSO THE LINE  
OF THOUGHT  
THAT SAYS OUR  
EXISTENCE IS  
LITTLE MORE  
THAN ONE NIGHT'S  
DREAM OF AN  
EMBRYO THAT WE  
CALL THE  
UNIVERSE THAT  
THE MOVEMENTS  
OF THE TREE ARE  
JUST A SINGLE  
HEARTBEAT

THERE AREN'T MANY  
GOOD EXAMPLES  
AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
TO SPEAK WITH  
CERTAINTY BUT THE  
SWAYING OF THE  
TREE OCCURS WHEN  
THE AMANUJAKU  
ELEMENT HAS  
GROWN LARGE

BUT HOW DO  
YOU INTERPRET  
THE AMANOUMUKU  
IN FOLKLORE?

IT REFERS  
TO SOMEONE  
ALWAYS  
DOING  
SOMETHING  
CONTRARY  
OR TO A  
DEMON WHO  
IMITATES  
HUMANS

THERE'S NO  
CORRECT  
ANSWER TO  
YOUR  
QUESTION. IT'S  
SOMETHING  
VAGUE. SOME  
PEOPLE MIGHT  
SAY THE  
AMANOUMUKU  
IS "A PERSON  
WHO SPEAKS  
THE TRUTH ON  
THE TREE'S  
SIDE" OR EVEN  
"AN EMISSARY  
OF THE DEVIL."

DET. TAMAI'S  
REPORT THE  
INVESTIGATION  
WAS FOCUSED  
ON SEMIOTIC  
WITH NO SIGNS  
OF THE STRESS  
SYNDROME  
JIN GUE TO  
CYBORGS

NOT A NIHILISTIC  
PHILOSOPHER-TYPE,  
BUT A POSITIVE  
REALIST. A  
PERSONALITY TRAIT  
THE NEW LIFE-FORM  
WE'RE SEEING MAY  
HAVE INHERITED

AND IF  
SO, WHAT  
HAPPENS?

SHE WILL  
SOON  
CONFRONT  
THEY'S

UH, I'VE GOT  
A FRIEND IN  
THE POSEIDON  
SECURITY  
DEPARTMENT  
WANT ME TO  
HAVE HIM  
OBSERVE HER  
MOVEMENTS?

NOT NOW.  
WE CAN DO  
THAT LATER IF  
NEED BE.



WE CAN RESTART  
THE INVESTIGATION  
AS SOON AS TAMAR  
RECOVERS BUT WE'LL  
PROBABLY HAVE TO  
WAIT UNTIL AROUND  
NOON FOR THAT  
TO HAPPEN

WELL SHE DID  
SAY THAT THIS  
MATTER HAD BEEN  
AROUND FOR A  
THOUSAND YEARS  
AND WOULD  
PROBABLY  
CONTINUE FOR  
ETERNITY SO



IT'S TRUE  
THAT WHAT  
IS GOING TO  
OCCUR TODAY  
IS ONLY A  
BEGINNING  
A SINGLE  
TRANSIT  
POINT BUT  
IT'S ALSO AN  
END POINT

SINCE IT'S  
HAPPENING  
IN  
REAL TIME  
I WANTED  
YOU TO BE  
PRESENT

? BUT I  
THOUGHT  
YOU GUYS  
WERE IN THE  
BUSINESS OF  
VIEWING THE  
FUTURE



THE PAST  
AND THE  
FUTURE ARE  
THE SAME  
THING

THE ONLY  
DIFFERENCE  
IS ON THE  
PART OF THE  
RECEIVER



**MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE: THE END**

2



CLOSED

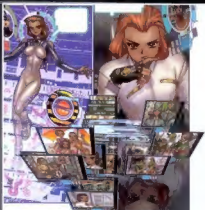




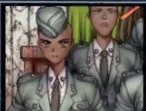
## INTERCHANGE

We wind up our final issue of *Man-Machine Interface* with some interesting bits and pieces from the vast *MMI* vaults.

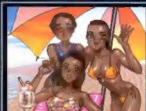
Submitted for your approval, ample evidence of exactly how much painstaking work Masamune Shirow puts into his storytelling. Here's a panel from issue two, with a series of floating screen images. Below are larger versions of those images, but you'll probably want to get out your magnifying glass to check out some of the details that now show up.



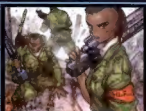
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FILE NO.  
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FILE NO.  
000.000.002.774



FILE NO.  
000.000.289.126



FILE NO.  
000.000.003.236



FILE NO.  
000.000.289.003



A variant view of the amazing inspection ROVs from the second issue. And the figure floating at right? That's the teeny, tiny figure swimming in the background of the panel!



# R.O.V-OV38-025 SILURU

TOP VIEW



FRONT

SIDE VIEW

CHASE

Okay, now get out your electron microscope! Here's a blown-up version of the little throwaway ROV schematic from issue 2 that was printed about the size of a tobacco tax stamp. I am told by our magical production folk that this text is actually readable when blown up from the high-resolution files. Of course, that could just be the whiskey talking...



And here, the coolest thing ever: the *Man-Machine Interface* mousepad that came with the limited-edition *Solid Box* set in Japan. I had to stop using mine, since I was having a hard time keeping my eyes on the computer screen!

